

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A speaker terminal, comprising a plug for speaker cables that comprises:

a plug main body involving terminal loading slots for positive and negative polarities on the front thereof, loading slots for cables in response to said both polarities in the rear thereof, and a hollow inside thereof;

tongues for holding terminals functioning to hold speaker terminals inserted from said terminal loading slots from the external surface thereof by spring action; and

tongues for holding cables coupled to said tongues for holding terminals and functioning to hold stranded wires of speaker cables inserted from said cable loading slots from the external surface thereof by spring action, said tongues for holding cables being operated so as to expand sections for holding cables by operating pieces disposed so as to be exposed outside said plug main body, respectively;

and further comprising:

one or more plug loading slots each having a front end of which opens into a substantially same sectional shape as a sectional contour of a plug for speaker cables to be inserted, wherein said slots comprise a top, a bottom and right and left sides;

an engaging projection for latching and supporting an engaging portion of an engaging lever of a plug to be inserted and that is disposed at the front end of an opening edge in said respective plug loading slots; and

contact pieces of terminals of positive and negative poles for speakers being disposed on an inmost recessed wall surface of said plug loading slots so as to be horizontal with respect to the front end of said opening, said contact pieces exhibiting the same shape;

wherein an opening wall of said front end of said plug loading slot engages and supports the engaging portion of the engaging lever of the plug to be inserted;

wherein at least one of said top, bottom and right and left sides includes a convex region that guides insertion and removal of a plug, and further prevents inadvertent contact with the contact pieces; and

wherein said plug loading slot is asymmetrical between said top and said bottom sides so that said plug can be inserted in only a single position relative to said slot; and

wherein extreme ends of contact pieces of terminals of positive and negative poles are disposed with a difference in their distances from the front end of the opening in said plug loading slots.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A speaker terminal according to claim 4, comprising at least two plug loading slots, wherein said plug loading slots are disposed in symmetrical disposition.

7. (Original) A speaker terminal according to claim 4 wherein front external surfaces of said plug loading slots for respective channels are colored separately.

8. (Previously Presented) A speaker terminal according to claim 4 wherein a shield plate is disposed in the front surface thereof except for each of said plug loading slots.

9. (Previously Presented) A speaker terminal according to claim 4 wherein said convex region is V-shaped.

10. (New) A speaker terminal, comprising:

one or more plug loading slots each having a front end of which opens into a substantially same sectional shape as a sectional contour of a plug for speaker cables to be inserted, wherein said slots comprise a top, a bottom and right and left sides;

an engaging projection for latching and supporting an engaging portion of an engaging lever of a plug to be inserted and that is disposed at the front end of an opening edge in said respective plug loading slots; and

contact pieces of terminals of positive and negative poles for speakers being disposed on an inmost recessed wall surface of said plug loading slots so as to be horizontal with respect to the front end of said opening, said contact pieces exhibiting the same shape;

wherein an opening wall of said front end of said plug loading slot engages and supports the engaging portion of the engaging lever of the plug to be inserted;

wherein at least one of said top, bottom and right and left sides includes a convex region that guides insertion and removal of a plug, and further prevents inadvertent contact with the contact pieces;

wherein said plug loading slot is asymmetrical between said top and said bottom sides so that said plug can be inserted in only a single position relative to said slot;

wherein extreme ends of contact pieces of terminals of positive and negative poles are disposed with a difference in their distances from the front end of the opening in said plug loading slots; and

wherein said convex region is V-shaped.